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For Immediate Release

York Regional Council approves Capital Plan for The Regional Municipality of York

\$682 million Capital Budget will enhance services for all York Region residents

NEWMARKET – York Regional Council has approved a \$682 million Capital Plan as part of The Regional Municipality of York's 2008 Business Plan and Budget.

The Capital Plan will enhance services for York Region residents and businesses in areas including: York Regional Police, transit (YRT and Viva), water and wastewater, Regional roads, solid waste management and Emergency Medical Services (EMS).

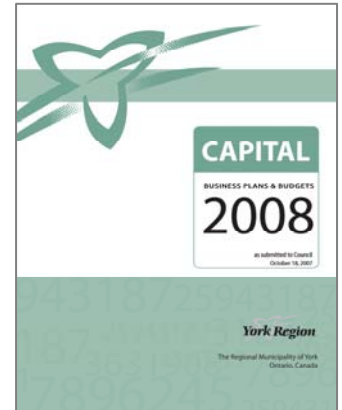
"The 2008 Capital Plan reflects York Regional Council's commitment of ensuring the residents and businesses of York Region receive high quality, value-added services for their tax dollars," said York Region Chairman and CEO Bill Fisch. "The 2008 Capital Plan identifies services and infrastructure necessary for enhancing the quality of life of all York Region residents."

"This Capital Plan demonstrates our commitment to York Region's long-term financial sustainability by incorporating costs for ongoing maintenance and replacement of existing assets over time," added Town of Newmarket Mayor Tony Van Bynen, Chair of the Region's Finance and Administration Committee. "I commend York Region staff for all of their hard work to bring the 2008 Capital Plan to fruition."

Some of the priorities identified in the 2008 Capital Plan include:

- \$103.9 million for Viva Rapid Transit, including construction of bus rapid transit lanes along the Yonge Street and Highway 7 corridors, and construction of the TTC Spadina Subway extension
- \$282.1 million for wastewater projects, including expansion of the Duffin Creek Water Pollution Control Plant
- \$73.3 million for water projects, including cost-shared works with the City of Toronto to provide 470 ML/day of water and staged expansion of the Peel water supply into York Region
- \$101.7 million for roads, including 66 new lane kilometres of roadway and resurfacing another 37 lane kilometres
- \$11.4 million for Solid Waste Management projects, including upgrades to the Garfield Wright Waste Management facility (blue box material processing) in East Gwillimbury
- \$5.6 million for a York Regional Police Investigative and Support Services Facility in the Town of Aurora
- \$4.7 million for an 85-unit senior's residence as part of the new Vaughan Civic Centre campus
- \$4.4 million for Emergency Medical Services (EMS), including the purchase of 10 replacement ambulances and construction of an EMS facility in the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville
- \$ 3.6 million for Highway 427 interim arterial extension work

(For a full list of capital projects, please refer to accompanying Fact Sheet.)



To help meet future growth demands mandated by the Province of Ontario's *Places to Grow* strategy, \$10.1 billion of capital expenditures are forecasted over the next 10 years. At \$682 million, the 2008 Capital Plan represents an approximate \$113.5 million increase over the 2007 capital investment.

The proposed *2008 Operating Plan* will be tabled at York Regional Council in the new year with Regional Council approval expected in April 2008.

The 2008 Regional tax levy increase will be determined once the 2008 Operating Plan is approved and factored together with the 2008 Capital Budget.

(For an overview of the Capital Plan and Operating Plan Budget process, please refer to accompanying Backgrounder.)

York Region is responsible for the delivery of 13 core services to residents and businesses including:

- Arterial Roads
- Regional Transit (YRT/Viva)
- Water and Wastewater Treatment
- Social Assistance
- Solid Waste Management
- Public Health
- Police Services
- Long Term Care
- Social Housing
- Emergency Medical Services
- Planning and Economic Development
- Court Administration
- Family and Children's Services

York Region follows a number of performance measurement activities for business planning and budgeting. York Region is a member of the Ontario Municipal CAO's Benchmarking Initiative (OMBI), a partnership project with 15 municipalities which share performance statistics and best practices. The Region is also a member of the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA), which has established standardized reporting for budgets and financial statements.

For more information on The Regional Municipality of York, please visit www.york.ca

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